

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is Claimed:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a substrate for use with a hybridization array, the method comprising:

positioning a porous layer on the substrate; and

collapsing a moat in the porous layer without substantially contacting the porous layer;

positioning a gasket in the moat, wherein the gasket forms a seal with the substrate thereby forming a boundary for a hybridization chamber; and

positioning an array within the boundary of the hybridization chamber, wherein the step of positioning the array can occur after the step of collapsing the moat or positioning the gasket.

~~wherein the moat is adapted to bound a portion of the porous layer on which the array can be positioned.~~
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the collapsing occurs by the application of heat.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the porous layer comprises nylon.
4. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing, comprising:

providing a substrate comprising a porous layer, wherein the porous layer is adapted for depositing an array within a hybridization chamber;

providing a pattern dimensioned for a moat~~[[.]]; wherein the moat is adapted to bound the array; and~~

collapsing the moat in the porous layer without substantially contacting the porous layer~~[[.]]; and~~

positioning a gasket in the moat, wherein the gasket forms a seal with the substrate thereby forming a boundary for the hybridization chamber.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the pattern is heated.
6. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a hybridization chamber, comprising:

providing a substrate comprising a porous layer with a moat collapsed without substantial contact to the porous layer; and

~~positioning an array on a portion of the porous layer bound by the moat; and~~

positioning a gasket in the moat to provide a nonporous seal, wherein the gasket forms the boundary for the hybridization chamber.
7. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for preparing a hybridization substrate, comprising:

a press comprising a die adapted to collapse a moat in the porous layer;

a mechanical stop to provide a gap between the die and the porous layer; and

a holder comprising a thermal path adapted to collapse the moat in the porous layer,

wherein the gap is adapted to collapse the moat in the porous layer without substantially contacting the porous layer.
8. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 7, wherein the thermal path includes a non-conductive portion.
9. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 7, further comprising a pivotable base.
10. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 7, wherein the die comprises the shape of a substantially rectangular form.
11. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 7, wherein the die comprises the shape of a substantially elliptical form.
12. (Withdrawn) A press, comprising:

a die adapted to collapse a moat in a porous layer of a hybridization substrate;

a mechanical stop to provide a gap between the die and the substrate;

a holder comprising a thermal path adapted to collapse the moat in the porous layer,
wherein the gap is adapted to collapse the moat in the porous layer without substantially contacting the porous layer.

13. (Withdrawn) The press of claim 12, wherein the mechanism to provide a gap includes at least one stop-limit pin.

14. (Withdrawn) A substrate for hybridization, comprising:

a porous layer, wherein the porous layer is adapted for depositing an array; and

a moat in the porous layer, wherein the moat is collapsed without substantial contact to the porous layer.

15. (Withdrawn) The substrate of claim 14, further comprising an array.

16. (Withdrawn) The substrate of claim 15, further comprising a hybridization fluid.

17. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for preparing a substrate for hybridization comprising means for providing a nonporous moat in a porous layer on a substrate, wherein the porous layer is adapted for depositing an array.

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for spotting the array on the substrate.

19. (Withdrawn) A system for automated preparation of substrates for hybridization comprising:

a first linear actuator to position a press, wherein the press comprises a die with a pattern and mechanical stop, wherein the die is mounted on a second linear actuator; and

a third linear actuator to position a slide holder.

20. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19, further comprising a fourth linear actuator to position a spotting head.

21. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19, further comprising a camera to inspect a moat on the substrate.